

Remarks

In response to the Office Action mailed on February 1, 2008, the Applicants respectfully request reconsideration in view of the following remarks. In the present application, independent claims 1, 7, 11, and 12 have been amended. The amended and new claims clarify that each extension is assigned utilizing a numbering scheme to distinguish between the wireless and wireline units, wherein the numbering scheme comprises assigning wireless extensions which are only even numbers and assigning wireline extensions which are only odd numbers, wherein the numbering scheme comprises assigning wireless extensions which are only even numbers and which comprise at least the last four digits of the wireless number and wherein the numbering scheme comprises assigning wireline extensions which are only odd numbers and which comprise at least the last four digits of the wireline directory number. Support for the amended and new claims may be found on page 15, line 17 through page 16, line 1 and on page 17, lines 2-67 in the Specification. No new matter has been added.

Claims 1, 2, 5, 7, 11-16, and 18 are pending in the application. In the Office Action, the pending claims are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Emery (US 6,011,975) in view of Leppanen (US 5,758,286).

Applicants' Statement of Substance of the Interview

A telephonic interview between the undersigned representative for the Applicants and the Examiner was held on May 6, 2008 to discuss proposed amendments to independent claims in view of the cited references. The Examiner agreed with the representative that the proposed amendments appeared to overcome the currently cited references of record and indicated that an updated search would be performed with respect to the amended claim recitations.

Claim Rejections - 35 U.S.C. §103(a)

Claims 1, 2, 5, 7, 11-16, and 18 are rejected as being unpatentable over Emery in view of Leppanen. The rejection of these claims is respectfully traversed.

Amended independent claim 1 specifies, in a telecommunications system including a wireless network having a mobile switching center (MSC) and including a wireline network, the wireline network having a communications network wherein wireline units operating in the communications network may call each other by using wireline extensions rather than wireline directory numbers, the communications network having a communications element with access to a table with wireline entries respectively for the wireline units operating in the communications network, each wireline entry including a wireline extension and a corresponding wireline directory number, a system for including wireless units of the wireless network in the communications network so the wireline units and the wireless units operating in the communications network may call each other by using the wireline extensions or wireless extensions rather than by using the wireline directory numbers or wireless numbers. The system includes: A. the table stored within the communications element or the MSC, the table comprising a wireless entry for each of the wireless units operating in the communications network, each wireless entry including a wireless extension and a corresponding wireless number for the wireless unit, wherein each extension is assigned utilizing a numbering scheme to distinguish between the wireless and wireline units, wherein the numbering scheme comprises assigning wireless extensions which are only even numbers and assigning wireline extensions which are only odd numbers, wherein each wireless extension comprises at least the last four digits of the corresponding wireless number, wherein the extension is associated with a user of one of the wireless units; B. the communications element being operative to store the table,

access the table to obtain the corresponding wireless number in response to receipt of the wireless extension in association with a call to the wireless unit, receive routing instructions from a service control point (SCP), and the communications element being further operative to route the call pursuant to the corresponding wireless number based on the routing instructions received from the SCP, wherein the communications element comprises a single element in the telecommunications system; and C. the MSC of the wireless network being functionally connected to the communications element, the MSC serving at least one or more wireless units operating in the communications network, the MSC being operative to access the table to obtain, respectively, the corresponding wireless number or wireline directory number in response to receipt of the wireless extension or wireline extension in association with a particular call to the wireless unit or to a wireline unit, wherein each wireline extension comprises at least the last four digits of the corresponding wireline directory number, and the MSC being operative to store the table, receive routing instructions from the SCP, and based on the routing instructions received route the particular call pursuant to the corresponding wireless number or the corresponding wireline number,

It is respectfully submitted that the combination of Emery and Leppanen fails to teach, disclose, or suggest all of the features specified in amended independent claim 1. For example, the aforementioned combination fails to disclose a numbering scheme to distinguish between the wireless and wireline units, wherein the numbering scheme comprises assigning wireless extensions which are only even numbers and assigning wireline extensions which are only odd numbers or wherein the wireless and wireline extensions comprise at least the last four digits of the wireless and wireline numbers.

Emery discusses the use of an AIN network to provide special services to subscribers (such as members of a Centrex group) placing outgoing calls. The subscribers may have an extension dialing plan or be provided with an abbreviated dialing option so that a limited number of digits may be utilized to access data in the ISCP to determine the complete destination number. The extension plan or abbreviated dialing option may represent a minimum number of digits of a called station's number. See Col. 23, lines 51-65 and Col. 24, lines 48-51.

Emery however, fails to disclose a numbering scheme for distinguishing between wireless and wireline units, wherein the numbering scheme comprises assigning wireless extensions which are only even numbers and assigning wireline extensions which are only odd numbers. In contrast, Emery merely discusses the use of an extension plan or abbreviated dialing option for making outgoing calls. Thus, Emery fails to specifically disclose a numbering scheme for assigning extensions of at least four digits to distinguish wireless and wireline units, wherein the numbering scheme comprises assigning wireless extensions which are only even numbers and assigning wireline extensions which are only odd numbers, as specified in amended claim 1.

It is respectfully submitted that Leppanen fails to cure the deficiencies of Emery, discussed above. Leppanen discusses making mobile telecommunications connections using abbreviated dialing in a mobile communications network. See Col. 3, lines 61-65. Mobile subscribers may be called by dialing a one digit predetermined shortened telephone number which includes a two digit prefix number (e.g., "67") and a one digit abbreviated number (e.g., "1"). The prefix number and the abbreviated number correspond to a public telephone number. See Col. 3, lines 1-60.

Leppanen however, fails to disclose a numbering scheme for distinguishing between wireless and wireline units, wherein the numbering scheme comprises assigning wireless extensions which are only even numbers and assigning wireline extensions which are only odd numbers. As discussed above, Leppanen only discusses mobile communications and thus not wireline units. Furthermore, Leppanen discusses a three digit code for dialing a mobile telephone number. In contrast, amended claim 1 specifies at least a four digit extension for wireline and wireless numbers and further specifies the use of a numbering scheme to distinguish between wireless and wireline units. Leppanen is silent with respect to the aforementioned numbering scheme and fails to disclose extensions which are at least four digits.

Based on the foregoing, the combination of Emery and Leppanen fails to teach, disclose, or suggest each of the features specified in amended claim 1. Therefore, amended claim 1 is allowable and the rejection of this claim should be withdrawn. Claims 2, 5, and 13-16 depend from amended claim 1, and are thus allowable for at least the same reasons. Therefore, the rejection of these claims should also be withdrawn. Amended independent claims 7 and 11 specify similar features as amended claim 1 discussed above, and thus are allowable for at least the same reasons. Therefore, the rejection of these claims should also be withdrawn. Claims 12 and 18 depend from amended claim 11, and are thus allowable for at least the same reasons. Therefore, the rejection of these claims should also be withdrawn.

Conclusion

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, this application is now in condition for allowance. A notice to this effect is respectfully requested. If the Examiner believes, after this amendment, that the application is not in condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to call the Applicants' attorney at the number listed below.

Please grant any extensions of time required to enter this response and charge any additional required fees to our deposit account 13-2725.

Respectfully submitted,

MERCHANT & GOULD P.C.
P.O. Box 2903
Minneapolis, Minnesota 55402-0903
(404) 954-5064

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/Alton Hornsby III/
Alton Hornsby III
Reg. No. 47,299

